

AMENDMENTS**In the Claims:**

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled) An automatic ID allocator for audio/video control entities, comprising in combination:

a memory space in one or more audio/video control units;

a recursive entity ID search routine within said memory space;

means within said recursive routine for identifying first available class IDs for entities; and

means for assigning said identified IDs to said entities.

2. (Cancelled) A method for assigning enumerated identifiers to audio/video control entities, comprising in combination:

checking a first available ID for availability;

assigning said ID if available to the requested entity in an entity list; and

utilizing said ID for the entity.

3. (Cancelled) The method of claim 2 further comprising recursively checking each next ID for availability if said first ID is unavailable.

4. (Cancelled) The method of claim 3 further comprising making an unavailable ID available upon disconnection of associated entities.

5. (Cancelled) In a memory space, an automatic ID allocator for audio/video control entities, comprising in combination:

a recursive entity ID search routine within the memory space;

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means within said recursive routine for identifying first available class IDs for entities; and

means for assigning said identified IDs to said entities.

6. (Cancelled) The allocator of claim 5 further comprising means for reassigning previously utilized ID instances when said instances are no longer in use.

7. (New) An apparatus for providing automatic ID allocation method for audio/video control entities, comprising:

means for providing a list for currently allocated audio/video control entities;

means for determining allocating a current identifier value to an initialized entity when an audio/visual control entity is initialized;

means for searching the list to see if a value matching the current identifier is contained in the list;

means for determining if a value matching the current identifier is contained in the list and then, until the current identifier value does not match a value contained on the list:

incrementing the current identifier value; and

checking the list to see if the incremented value is contained in the list; and

means for adding the current identifier value to the list if the current identifier value is not contained in the list.

8. (New) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the list is initially empty.

9. (New) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the current identifier value allocated to the initialized entity is zero.

10. (New) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein an entity comprises a audio/video control unit.